

# Staff at SLT Win Their Dispute after 20 Months

Leisure workers in Sandwell are celebrating a victory after Sandwell Leisure Trust announced that it will return the workers to national pay, terms and conditions.

This followed a solid day of strike action by all unions on 10 May. See [Strike Shuts Leisure Centres Across Sandwell – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://www.sandwellunison.co.uk)

The Board of SLT announced the decision on Friday 13 May. It reverses the fire and rehire of staff that took place back in March 2021.

UNISON has been in dispute with SLT for 20 months over the fire and rehire policy. This involved taking 7 strike action days, continual direct lobbying of councillors, a demonstration outside the new Commonwealth Games Aquatic Centre and a lobby of Sandwell Council.

In February, Sandwell Council announced that it would be ending its contract with the Trust and finding a new way forward for the facilities.

Sandwell UNISON Branch Secretary Tony Barnsley said: “This decision is great news for all the staff working at Sandwell Leisure Trust. It is the culmination of the hard work and dedication by UNISON at a branch and regional level.”

Mr Barnsley noted that the union had “combined an industrial strategy with a political strategy from day one to win. This helped give UNISON members the confidence to keep fighting for 20 long months.

“Congratulations to them and all that took part in the strike action on 10 May, including the other unions.”

# UNISON Submits 20% Pay Claim at Serco

Staff at Serco are paid below the rates of pay at other Refuse depots. With Inflation at 11.1% and rising UNISON representatives decided to submit a 20% claim alongside improving sick pay and annual leave for the two-tier workforce Serco has created.

Serco has offered 8% and 5 additional days leave for anyone on 20 days annual leave.

This offer remains below inflation and represents a pay cut in real terms. UNISON, together with our sister trade unions, will consult on the offer.

# College Unions Ask for Early Talks on Pay

UNISON has been meeting members to consult on what kind of pay claim should be submitted to Sandwell College. Further news will be posted on [www.sandwellunison.co.uk](https://www.sandwellunison.co.uk)

# Restructures at Council

Numerous restructures have been taking place across Sandwell Council and more are in the pipeline. Make sure you and your colleagues are in the strongest possible position to deal with these restructures by being in UNISON.

# Ballots at Sandwell Children’s Trust

With caseloads soaring and the number of social workers falling, tensions are rising for staff at Sandwell Children’s Trust.

Advanced Practitioners are undertaking a consultative ballot for action short of strike action. Newly qualified social workers at the Front Door, some who are allocated double the number of cases they should hold, have also requested a ballot.

UNISON urges staff not to work excessive hours. It is important that staff look after their own health so they can continue to support Sandwell’s children in the long term.



Find us at Sandwell General Branch of Unison